United Nations A/61/361

General Assembly

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Sixty-first session
Agenda item 117
Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Construction of additional conference facilities at the Vienna International Centre

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the construction of additional conference facilities at the Vienna International Centre (A/61/166). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The report of the Secretary-General was submitted pursuant to the request in resolution 59/276 of 23 December 2005, in which the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the proposal of the Government of Austria to construct a new conference facility within the boundaries of the Vienna International Centre. In the resolution the General Assembly also entrusted the Secretary-General to determine, in cooperation with the other three organizations located at the Vienna International Centre, the cost-sharing arrangements for potential future costs arising from the project within the amount indicated in his note, on the understanding that the related financial requirements will be dealt with in the context of the proposed programme budget for the respective bienniums; and to report thereon to the General Assembly for its review and decision. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to report on the progress in the project implementation to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

3. In paragraph 4 of his report, the Secretary-General presents a breakdown of the cost-sharing arrangement for the construction of additional conference facilities (see table below) and notes that the new conference facility will be available in 2008. Also, paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's report indicates that from 2008 to 2010, the new facility would serve as a "swing space" while asbestos was being removed from the existing conference building. During that period, the organizations would incur no additional maintenance and operation costs relating to the new conference facility.

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Cost-sharing arrangement

Participating organization	*Share (percentage)*	*Contribution (euros)*
International Atomic Energy Agency	80.0	2 000 000
Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization	13.0	325 000
United Nations Office at Vienna	4.0	100 000
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	3.0	75 000
Total	**100.0**	**2 500 000**

4. The project would be carried out by the host country Government in its entirety. To that end, a memorandum of understanding with the host country Government was finalized on 18 October 2004, with a project cost ceiling of €52.5 million. Of that amount, €2.5 million would be contributed by the United Nations and three other Vienna-based organizations towards the purchase of furniture and equipment which the contributing entities would then own. The Committee was informed that the United Nations share (€100,000) would be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

5. The Advisory Committee has in the past expressed its concern about asbestos in United Nations buildings and its potentially damaging health effects. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed by the Secretariat that costs related to the removal of asbestos were not included as part of the total project cost of €52.5 million as the asbestos removal in the present Vienna conference centre is already being undertaken by the host Government (A/61/166, paras. 5-6). **The Advisory Committee would welcome updates on asbestos removal in future reports of the Secretary-General on the construction of additional conference facilities.**

6. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the construction of additional conference facilities at the Vienna International Centre (A/61/166).**

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Construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa (A/61/158). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The report of the Secretary-General was submitted pursuant to the request in General Assembly resolution 56/270 of 27 March 2002 that the Secretary-General report on an annual basis on progress made in the construction of additional office facilities at ECA. The Committee notes that the report contains an update on actions taken to implement the project since the Secretary-General's previous report (A/60/532).

3. The report of the Secretary-General presents a breakdown of the cost plan in the amount of $11,383,300, as approved by the General Assembly in section VII of its resolution 60/248 of 23 December 2005. The Advisory Committee notes that the previous cost plan, as presented by the Secretary-General in table 3 of his report (A/60/532), projected expenditures in the amount of $8,992,700, of which $7,711,800, requested by the Secretary-General in 2001 (A/56/672), had been approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/270.

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Comparative cost plan

(United States dollars)

	Estimated costs[a] approved in 2005[b]	*Estimated costs based on construction documents, 2005*	*Estimated costs approved in 2001 (A/56/672)*
Construction costs	7 488 600	5 617 600	4 400 500
Design, consultancy services	774 700	626 700	440 000
Site work, fire protection, local area networks/wide area networks, lighting, security, audio systems	1 153 300	1 080 000	1 015 500
Workstations and furniture	262 800	262 800	262 800
Project coordination	610 200[c]	508 200[c]	508 200[c]
Construction contingencies	1 093 700	897 400	662 700
Inflationary increases, currency fluctuation	—	—	422 100
Total	**11 383 300[a]**	**8 992 700[a]**	**7 711 800**

[a] Includes estimated provision for contingencies, inflation and currency fluctuations.
[b] By General Assembly resolution 60/248.
[c] Represents costs for architectural and project management services (on a consultancy basis).

4. The Committee notes from paragraphs 1 and 2 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/61/158) that the cost increase is in accordance with resolution 60/248, in which the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Advisory Committee (A/60/7/Add.21) to expand the scope of the project to include the construction of two additional floors to be completed simultaneously with the originally approved four floors. The total capacity of the new office facilities would therefore be 9,550 square metres, with a total estimated project cost of $11,383,300. The Advisory Committee was assured that no further cost increases were anticipated.

5. Upon enquiry, the Committee was provided with information on the status of expenditures as at 13 September 2006, as follows:

Additional information on status of expenditures as at 13 September 2006

(United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	*2002-2003*	*2004-2005*	*2006[a]*	*Total expenditure*
Staff and other personnel costs (GTA)	63 600	162 761	—	**226 361**
Contractual services	162 100	361 551	286 085	**809 736**
Total	**225 700**	**524 312**	**286 085**	**1 036 097**

[a] Per IMIS as at 13 September 2006. ECA had not yet reflected its expenditures as at that date.

6. The Committee notes from paragraphs 4 and 5 of the report of the Secretary-General that the title deed has been signed, giving ECA possession of the land. Paragraph 5 indicates that the addendum, which is an integral part of the deed, is pending approval by the host country Government.

7. With regard to the appointment of a project coordinator, as indicated in paragraph 10 of the report of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee was assured that the recruitment process was under way and that a coordinator would be on board in time to manage the construction phase of the project.

8. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa (A/61/158).**

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Sixty-first session
Agenda item 54
Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General hereby transmits the report on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (E/2006/71)* to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixty-first session under agenda item 54, pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2006/247.

* Document E/2006/71 has been circulated separately.

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